



GovNET Ribbon Cutting

Remarks by Gov. Jan Brewer
Tuesday, February 7, 2012

Good afternoon, everyone.

In September of 2010, I announced that a \$39.2 million federal broadband infrastructure grant had been awarded to GovNET, Inc. – a telecommunications company based right here in Arizona.

That grant was awarded to build a statewide microwave and fiber network to bring increased Broadband capacity -- and internet connectivity -- to everyone of Arizona's 15 counties.

Well, we're here this afternoon, to symbolically cut the ribbon on this project – to begin Arizona's second century with a program that creates jobs and expands communication -- to help with everything from enhancing rural schools and libraries -- to networking hospitals and healthcare providers.

In addition, the network will allow for direct communication channels between public safety and multiple law enforcement agencies with the potential to improve operational issues along the border.

More broadband capabilities at higher speeds means that rural economic development will be strengthened in Arizona communities – including everything from call centers to research and laboratory parks.

The telemedicine channel will allow hospitals in metro areas to provide remote diagnosis and treatments for rural hospitals -- a technology that will certainly save lives.

Before you hear more from Jim Palmer about how the counties will be helped , -- and from Lou Trammell about partnering with our Arizona

Division of Emergency Management -- let me thank GovNET's CEO, Patrick Barringer, for guiding this great project to completion.

Arizona will be drawn closer together as a result. We'll be a safer, wiser, more efficient, state, and we thank you for ensuring all of that happens.

Thank you.